



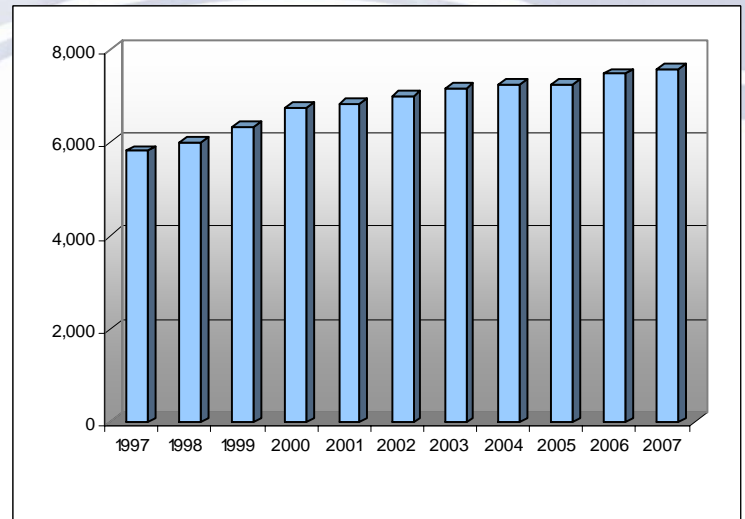
# Boise County

October 2008

## Work Force Trends

### Population

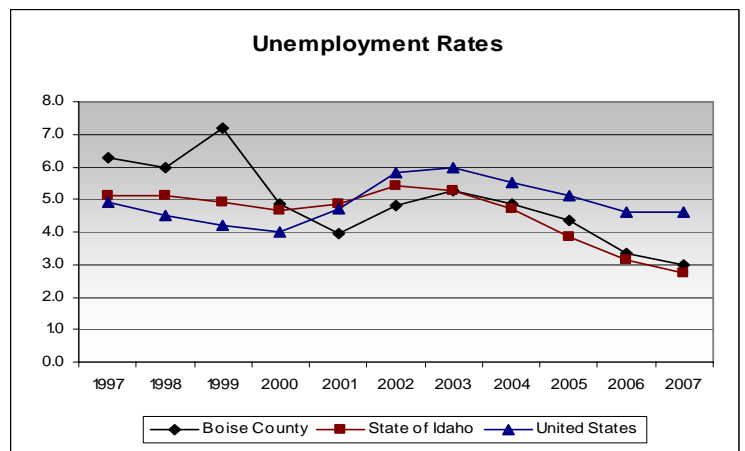
Boise County is ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> out of Idaho's 44 counties in population and is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest in area. In 1997, Boise County had a population of 5,816 and in 2007 that number had grown to 7,571, a growth rate of 30.2 percent. Like other rural communities Boise County has suffered a downturn in its natural resources industries. However, due to its close proximity to Ada County, Boise County has not experienced the rising and falling in population levels as some counties formerly heavily reliant on logging or mining have. Developers have built subdivisions in Boise County in the mountains that attract commuters from nearby Ada County. Attractions in Boise County include the urban ski resort Bogus Basin which is just minutes from downtown Boise, and the Payette River which attracts rafters and kayakers with its world class whitewater rapids.



### Labor Force & Employment

Through the late 1990's and the early 2000's, Boise County's civilian labor force experienced fluctuating levels. In 2003 this stopped and the labor force has posted steady gains ever since. Between 1997 and 2007 the labor force grew by 1,268 people, a whopping 51.2 percent gain. The unemployment rate was highest in 1999 at 7.2 percent and dipped below the level commonly considered full employment – 4 percent – to 3.4 percent in 2006 and moved even lower in 2007 coming in at 3.0 percent.

Boise County continued to add jobs in 2007 although at a slower rate than in 2006. Twenty two nonfarm jobs were added in 2007, down from the 91 that were added in 2006. Not surprisingly construction which added 41.8 percent of these jobs in 2006 slowed but stayed steady only down three jobs as new home construction slowed as the effects of the slowing regional economy took hold. Manufacturing

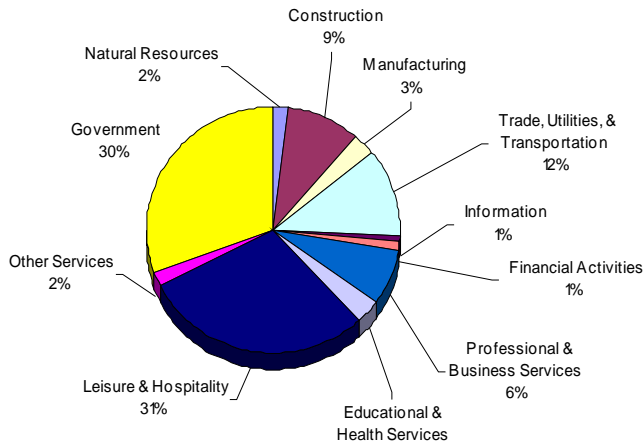


continued to increase in Boise County as the industrial area formerly occupied by Hoff Lumber and Boise Cascade in Horseshoe Bend continues to be successful in adding new businesses. Government declined somewhat during 2007 as decreased logging efforts have reduced the need for Forest Service employees. Despite this, Government makes up nearly one-fourth of the jobs in Boise County. The number of companies moving to the area has slowed and current business expansions have followed suit as the uncertainty in the economy is reaching into all corners of southwest Idaho despite lower costs of doing business.

Labor Force	Sep 2007	Sep 2008
Civilian Labor Force	3,712	3,704
Total Employment	3,623	3,499
Unemployed	89	205
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.4	5.5
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.7	5.0
U.S. % Unemployed	4.7	6.1

Labor Force	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Civilian Labor Force	2,475	2,548	2,468	3,431	3,468	3,450	3,525	3,560	3,651	3,674	3,747
Unemployment	156	152	177	166	136	167	185	173	160	123	111
% of Labor Force Unemployed	6.3	6.0	7.2	4.8	3.9	4.8	5.3	4.9	4.4	3.3	3.0
Employment	2,319	2,396	2,291	3,265	3,331	3,284	3,340	3,387	3,491	3,552	3,636

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2007



## Per Capita Income & Employment

Boise County made a big jump in per capita income between 2004 and 2005 moving from 29<sup>th</sup> in the state at \$23,589 to 20<sup>th</sup> at \$24,856. A growing construction industry paying higher wages and more affluent residents moving into the County to avoid the more crowded Ada County have contributed to the increase in per capita income.

The majority of jobs in Boise County are in government, one of the higher-paying industries, followed closely by leisure and hospitality one of the lowest paying. Trade, utilities, and transportation and construction are the next two largest industries. Construction employment has nearly quadrupled in Boise County since 1997.

## Major Employers

Basin School District
Bogus Basin Ski Resort
Boise County
Challenger Companies Inc.
Garden Valley School District
City of Idaho City
Horseshoe Bend School District
Mikylars World Inc
Project Patch
Ward Brothers Inc
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service

## Occupational Wages\*

## Starting Wage

Licensed Practical Nurse	\$14.67
Construction Laborer	\$10.56
Truck Drivers	\$11.03
Administrative Assistants	\$11.79
Shipping & Receiving Clerks	\$8.95
Auto Mechanics & Technicians	\$10.50
Logging Equipment Operators	\$18.30
School Bus Drivers	\$9.36
Cooks	\$9.46
Waiter/Waitress	\$6.10

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor Web site at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1997, 2006, & 2007	1997		2006		2007	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
<b>Total Covered Wages</b>	1,321	\$16,730	1,687	\$25,891	1,705	\$24,311
<b>Agriculture</b>	92	\$23,068	64	\$30,970	52	\$30,416
<b>Mining</b>	*	*	*	*	16	\$46,292
<b>Construction</b>	43	\$17,660	162	\$36,727	155	\$35,193
<b>Manufacturing</b>	67	\$32,988	38	\$36,192	50	\$26,783
<b>Trade, Utilities, &amp; Transportation</b>	87	\$12,325	187	\$24,847	197	\$17,036
<b>Information</b>	*	*	13	\$39,723	13	\$42,465
<b>Financial Activities</b>	3	\$7,523	18	\$25,919	21	\$20,883
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	66	\$22,517	94	\$22,468	124	\$26,286
<b>Educational and Health Services</b>	51	\$13,172	59	\$21,422	51	\$23,919
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	441	\$8,100	494	\$12,447	508	\$12,477
<b>Other Services</b>	*	*	26	\$26,498	20	\$27,830
<b>Government</b>	466	\$21,727	525	\$34,660	497	\$33,367

Per Capita Income	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Boise County</b>	\$18,908	\$20,043	\$20,252	\$21,538	\$21,827	\$21,911	\$22,856	\$23,342	\$26,038	\$27,287
<b>State of Idaho</b>	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,077	\$25,024	\$25,221	\$25,524	\$27,361	\$28,301	\$29,920
<b>United States</b>	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,843	\$30,574	\$30,821	\$31,504	\$33,123	\$34,757	\$36,714

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the Idaho Department of Labor offices listed below:

2030 S. Washington St.  
Emmett, ID 83617-9450 Ph: (208) 364-7780

205 E. Watertower Lane  
Meridian, ID 83642-6282 Ph: (208) 364-7785

[labor.idaho.gov](http://labor.idaho.gov)

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